



ABOUT AIMS-NEI

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences-Next Einstein Initiative (AIMS-NEI) was launched in 2008 to build Africa's capacity to harness and apply mathematical sciences for development. It is dedicated to building a new generation of African centres that provide high quality training in the application of mathematical sciences to solve the continent's pressing economic problems. The centres attract leading African and international scholars who train young bright African graduates to use mathematical thinking and tools in agriculture, energy, health, finance, industry and other facets of economic and human development.

AIMS-NEI builds on six years of successful experimentation and operations of the Cape Town based African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS). AIMS was established in September 2003 to offer postgraduate training in mathematical sciences. It is a partnership project of the Universities of Cape Town, Stellenbosch and Western Cape in South Africa, Cambridge and Oxford in the UK, and Paris Sud XI in France. AIMS has trained 252 graduates from across Africa. It has modern physical infrastructure and a large pool of leading lecturers for training in such areas as financial mathematics, epidemiological modelling, industrial mathematics, bioinformatics, biomathematics, and ecological modelling. The Institute has also established a research centre and offering postdoctoral fellowships to researchers from across Africa. On the whole, AIMS has grown to become a pan-African centre of excellence in mathematical sciences.

Because there is overwhelming demand for places at AIMS and many African countries want to create AIMS like centres, the African Union (AU) and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) endorsed a proposal by AIMS to establish 15 such centres across Africa in the next 10 years or so. AIMS-NEI is the institutional mechanism or arrangement for implementing the proposal. It is responsible for creating new AIMS centres that will provide advanced technical training to bright young Africans in order to build their problem-solving skills and create employment opportunities for them in industry, banking, NGOs, academia and government.

AIMS-NEI's programme of work covers the following components or aspects: (a) mobilizing resources for AIMS centres (b) monitoring international developments or trends in mathematical sciences to inform or advise programmes of AIMS centres (c) facilitating partnerships among and networking of AIMS centres (d) helping to manage the quality of AIMS centres' by commissioning independent evaluations of their academic and research programmes, and (e) promoting the work of AIMS centres in regional and international forums.